

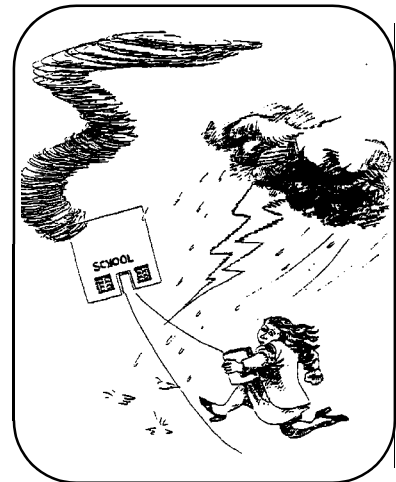
# School Safety

## EVERY School Should Have a Plan

- Develop a severe weather action plan and have frequent drills
- Each school should be inspected and tornado shelter areas designated. Basements offer the best protection. Schools without basements should use interior rooms and hallways on the lowest floor and stay away from windows and doors.
- Those responsible for activating the plan should monitor NOAA Weather Radio or the local commercial media.
- If the school's alarm system relies on electricity, have a compressed air horn or megaphone to activate the alarm in case of power failure.
- Make special provisions for disabled students and those in portable classrooms.
- Make sure someone knows how to turn off electricity and gas in the event the school is damaged.
- Keep children at school beyond regular hours if threatening weather is expected. Children are safer at school than in a bus or car. Students should not be sent home early if severe weather is approaching.
- Lunches or assemblies in large rooms should be delayed if severe weather is anticipated. Gymnasiums, cafeterias, and auditoriums offer no protection from tornado-strength winds.
- Move students quickly into interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor. Have them get down on their knees, bend over and cover their head with their hands.



**Bus drivers should be trained on severe weather procedures**



**Get inside quickly when lightning is nearby!**



**Assume this position.**